REMARKS

Claims have been amended to further clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. The clarifications are supported, for example, by pages 7-9 of the specification.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 8-12, 15-20 under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,151,703 (*Crelier*). This rejection is fully rejected below.

It is noted that *Crelier* pertains to a development system with methods for just-in-time <u>compilation</u> of programs (*Crelier,* Abstract*)*. However, it is respectfully that *Crelier* does NOT teach or suggest: generating and loading in the virtual machine prior to execution time a <u>cluster of Java object representations</u> which are <u>sequentially</u> represented inside the virtual machine (claim 8). It should be noted that <u>each</u> of the Java object representations in the cluster <u>consists</u> of: a first reference to an internal class representation of a class associated with a Java object, and a second reference to instance fields associated with said Java object. In fact, it is respectfully submitted that *Crelier* does NOT even remotely suggest a two-tier arrangement of first and second references as a cluster inside a virtual machine.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, it is very respectfully submitted that object handle (401) of *Crelier* does NOT teach or suggest a <u>cluster of Java object representations which are sequentially arranged inside a virtual machine.</u> Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that *Crelier* NOT teach or suggest: (a) sequentially reading by the virtual machine at runtime the cluster of Java object representations, (b) determining by the virtual machine at runtime whether Java objects or Java classes are to be identified, (c) using said first references of said cluster to mark memory addresses that correspond to Java objects or Java classes, thereby allowing Java objects or Java classes to be identified at run time by a sequential read of the cluster (claim 8). It is earnestly believed that *Crelier* cannot possibly teach these features because *Crelier* does not pertain to identifying active Java objects at runtime. Instead, *Crelier* pertains

to Just-in-time compilation technique where when a method call is made from interpreted code, the system employs an "invoker" slot of the callee and when a method call is made from compiled code, the system employs a "compiled code" slot of the callee (*Crelier, Abstract*).

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 8 and its dependent claims are patentable over *Crelier* for at least these reasons. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 21 and 28 are also patentable over *Crelier* for at least these reasons because they recite similar features.

Based on the foregoing, it is submitted that claims are patentably distinct over the cited art of record. Additional limitations recited in the independent claims or the dependent claims are not further discussed because the limitations discussed above are sufficient to distinguish the claimed invention from the cited art. Accordingly, Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner.

Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 500388 (Order No. SUN1P832). Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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